

## U of A's Nobel Laureate wins top poetry prize

Michael Davies-Venn

Derek Walcott, the University of Alberta's first Nobel laureate faculty member, has scored one of the highest recognitions in British poetry. Walcott has won the T.S. Eliot Prize for Poetry for his collection of poems, *White Egrets*, which was partially completed during his time at the U of A.

Walcott was with friends in his native St. Lucia celebrating Nobel laureate Week when news came that he had won. English professor Bert Almon was there and says Walcott, the man of words, was at a loss for them when told of his new accolade.

"It was the day after his birthday and we had gone out. When we returned his partner Sigrid met us at the door and said, 'Derek, there is a wonderful birthday gift for you in the living room.'

"We walked into the living room; other friends were there, and Sigrid said, 'you won the T.S. Eliot prize.' Derek was quite overwhelmed. He was speechless. It's one of the most important poetry prizes in the English-speaking world," Almon says.

Anne Stevenson, chair of the judges, called *White Egrets* a "moving, risk-taking and technically flawless book."

"Any poem you undertake is risk taking because you don't know if you're going to be clear," Walcott says. He adds his daughter's home influenced the title of the book. "In Santa Cruz in Trinidad and Tobago, at my daughter's house, the egrets come out onto the lawn and they're very beautiful. It's a very exhilarating site to see the egrets on the ground."

"To a certain extent, the book is about self-renewal," said Walcott, reserving comment on the book's themes. "It's up to the reader to find out, but I guess old age is one of them."

Walcott's relationship with the U of A goes back to 2007, when he read a poem while accompanied by a percussionist. During the same visit Walcott also taught a master's class with students from over a dozen countries, where the poet asked each student to translate *Dante's Inferno* into their language and read it aloud.

Continued on page 2

## Front row reporting



Rick Mercer of the "Rick Mercer Report" joined the Faculty of Engineering's concrete toboggan team Jan. 29 during the Great Northern Concrete Toboggan Race held at Connors Hill.

## Drug intended for diabetes may help Alzheimer's patients

Raquel Maurier

A researcher with the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry has discovered that a drug originally intended for diabetes may hold promise in the fight against Alzheimer's disease.

During tests in his lab, Jack Jhamandas, of the faculty's Division of Neurology and his team discovered that the drug AC253, developed for diabetes but never put on the market, blocked the toxic effects of a protein that is deposited in large quantities in the brains of Alzheimer's patients. This beta amyloid protein, which is linked to the cause of Alzheimer's, makes brain cells toxic—ultimately causing them to die.

"From the point-of-view of therapies, it may open up some new avenues for us to explore in terms of treatment for Alzheimer's disease," says Jhamandas. "I think patients with this condition, their families and caregivers, live on a word called 'hope' and this is a type of a discovery that engenders that hope; that ignites that hope and

that keeps it burning."

Jhamandas and his research team, who are funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, published their results in the peer-reviewed *American Journal of Pathology* in January.

The team reported two other significant discoveries related to Alzheimer's. They found a second way to block the toxic effects of beta amyloid protein, using a relatively new technique to "silence" a gene involved in the process of brain cell death. By silencing the gene, numerous processes triggering cell death were blocked, so they were able to prevent brain cells from dying.

"We altered the genes and low and behold, beta amyloid protein lost its ability to kill brain cells as effectively as it normally would," says Jhamandas.

The third finding, this one in collaboration with David Westaway, a fellow Alzheimer's researcher in the faculty, relates to basic understanding of the disease. They discovered the genes that could be silenced weren't everywhere in the

"I think patients with this condition, their families and caregivers, live on a word called 'hope' and this is a type of a discovery that engenders that hope; that ignites that hope and that keeps it burning."

Jack Jhamandas

brain. Both these genes and the toxic protein were only found in large quantities in the areas of the brain responsible for memory, learning and cognition, says Jhamandas.

"It was quite a surprising observation. We're not sure what it fully means, so we are in the process of looking at this in brain tissue from Alzheimer's patients."

## End of an era for the U of A's old Main Gym

Story page 9



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# folio

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Office of the Vice President  
(External Relations)  
Marketing and Communications  
6th Floor, General Services Building  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H1

### Acting Editor

Michael Brown  
michael.brown@ualberta.ca

### Contributors

Michael Brown, Michael Davies-Venn,  
Dawn Ford, Jamie Hanlon, Douglas  
Hedley, John Kennelly, Raquel Maurier,  
Brian Murphy, Isha Thompson, Wanda  
Vivequin

### Graphic Design

Marketing and Communications

folio's mandate is to serve as a credible news source for the university community by communicating accurate and timely information about issues, programs, people and events and by serving as a forum for discussion and debate. folio is published 23 times per year.

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### Inquiries

Comments and letters should be directed to Michael Brown, acting editor, 780-492-9407  
michael.brown@ualberta.ca

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Deadline: Thursday, noon, one week prior to publication  
Debbie Keehn, 780-492-2325  
folioads@ualberta.ca

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### Circulation/Change of Address

Contact Debbie Keehn at 780-492-2325 or via e-mail at  
debbie.keehn@ualberta.ca

### Billing Info

Contact Fatima Jaffer at 780-492-0448 or via e-mail at  
fatima.jaffer@ualberta.ca

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## U of A scientists help overturn forest legislation in Brazil

Folio Staff

Thousands of hectares of tropical dry forests in the Brazilian state of Minas

Gerais are now safe from logging, thanks to efforts by University of

Alberta Faculty of Science researchers led by Arturo Sánchez-Azofeifa.

A Brazil court unanimously overturned Minas Gerais State Law, which would have removed 16.1 thousand square kilometres of tropical dry forests from protec-

tion. This would have resulted in a significant loss of biodiversity and ecosystems services such as weather regulation and water production.

Sánchez-Azofeifa says the overturned law would have allowed up to 70 per cent clearing of these forests for economic purposes, providing only limited, temporary fiscal benefits for a small number of large investors.

The court's decision, according to Sánchez-Azofeifa, provides a significant victory for the protection of other endangered ecosystems outside

of the Amazon Basin that have been neglected over the years. In addition, the decision opens the door for further strategies for conservation of tropical dry forests in Brazil.

Sánchez-Azofeifa, a principal investigator with Tropi-Dry—a collaborative research network sponsored by the U of A and the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research—Mario Marcos do Espírito Santo, from the Universidad Estadual de Montes Claros in Minas Gerais,

“[This decision] provides a great example of our commitment, as the Faculty of Science, to enhancing our global-citizenship effort.”

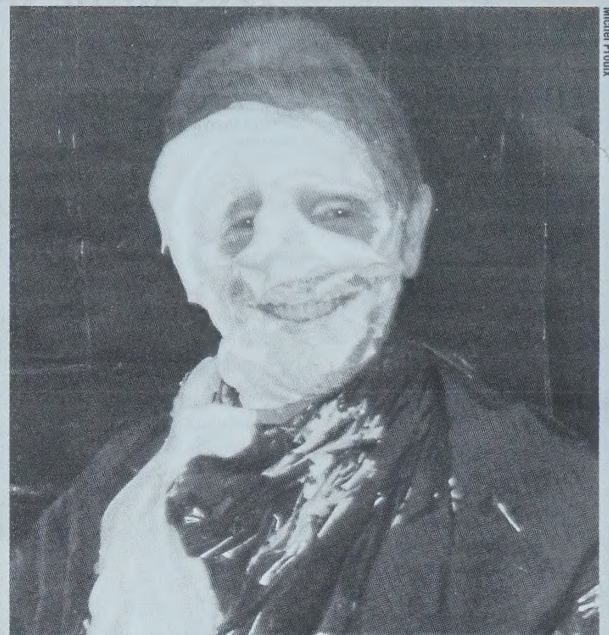
Gregory Taylor

Brazil, submitted evidence that the forests re-designated under the new state law are also protected by federal law, which takes precedence.

They also supplied key data that clearly indicates that the Minas Gerais forests should be included in the Atlantic forest preservation area, and as such, be protected by federal decree.

“Many years of ecological and social-science research conducted by Tropi-Dry, and aimed at describing the human and ecological dimensions of this endangered Minas Gerais

## A pie-eating grin



John Kennelly, dean of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Science, was pried Jan. 28 as part of a faculty food drive in support of the Campus Food Bank.

biome, clearly showed that these forests belong in the federally protected category,” Sánchez-Azofeifa said.

Marcos do Espírito Santo stressed, “he data were key to this success.”

Dean of Science Gregory Taylor said the news is a great example of the significant impact scientific research can have in securing the future of important ecosystems and landscapes around the globe.

“Years of work by researchers in our Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences has contributed to this significant landmark decision in South America—something we can justifiably be proud of and something that raises our scientific profile even higher,” said Taylor. “It provides a great example of our commitment, as the Faculty of Science, to enhancing our global-citizenship efforts.” ■

## Dinosaurs may have survived extinction by 700,000 years

Brian Murphy

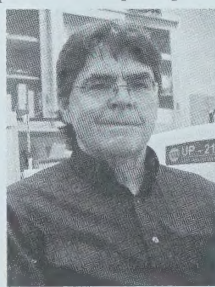
University of Alberta researchers have determined that a fossilized dinosaur bone found in New Mexico confounds the long-established assumption that the age of dinosaurs ended between 65.5 and 66 million years ago.

The U of A team, led by Larry Heaman from the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, put the femur bone of a sauropod through an elaborate testing procedure and found it's only 64.8 million years old.

Heaman says that means this particular sauropod was alive about 700,000 years after the mass extinction event, which many paleontologists believe wiped all non-avian dinosaurs off the face of Earth forever. It's commonly believed debris from a

giant meteorite impact blocked out the sun, causing extreme climate conditions and killing vegetation worldwide.

“If our uranium-lead dating technique bears out on more fossils, than the whole end-of-the-age-of-dinosaurs paradigm will have to be revised,” said



Larry Heaman

Heaman.

Heaman and colleagues used a method called uranium-lead dating to target the age of the fossilized femur of the sauropod. A laser beam unseated minute particles of the bone, which then underwent isotopic analysis.

“This new technique not only allows the age of

fossil bone to be determined,” said Heaman, “but also potentially distinguishes the type of food a dinosaur ate.”

Heaman explains that living bone contains very low levels of uranium, but during fossilization (typically less

than 1,000 years after death) bone is enriched in elements like uranium. The uranium atoms in the bone then decay to lead and, once fossilization is complete, the uranium-lead clock starts ticking. Heaman says the isotopic composition of lead determined in the sauropod's femur bone is, therefore, a measure of its absolute age.

Currently, paleontologists date dinosaur fossils using a technique called relative chronology. Where possible, a fossil's age is estimated relative to the known depositional age of a layer of sediment in which it was found. Heaman says this method is limited because researchers have to be certain of the age of the rock layers surrounding the fossil.

Another potential weakness in the relative chronology approach cited by Heaman is that, over millions of years, geologic and environmental forces may cause erosion of a fossil-bearing layer of rock and cause the fossil to drift or migrate from its original layer in the strata. Heaman says his direct-dating

technique eliminates that kind of false age reading.

Heaman and his research colleagues say there could be several reasons why the New Mexico sauropod came from a line of dinosaurs that survived the great mass extinction events of the late Cretaceous period or, as it's also known, the KT extinction event. Heaman says it's possible that in some areas the vegetation wasn't wiped out, and a number of the sauropod species survived. The researchers also say the potential survival of dinosaur eggs during extreme climatic conditions needs to be explored.

Heaman says uranium lead testing could open new doors in dinosaur research.

“Our technique could eliminate old dating errors,” said Heaman. “Current theories, that dinosaurs on opposite sides of the world lived at the same time because their bones are similar, can now be proven or disproven by direct aging of the fossils.” ■

## Nobel laureate named

continued from page 1

U of A political science professor, Malinda Smith, said Walcott wanted the students to determine how the poem would read when translated, recalling an extraordinary debate with an Italian student.

“Afterward I remember Derek saying, ‘wasn't that great? That student sure gave it to me,’” Smith said. “It was magical. He was very impressed by it. He also said that he'd never been in a class with students from so many countries, speaking different languages.”

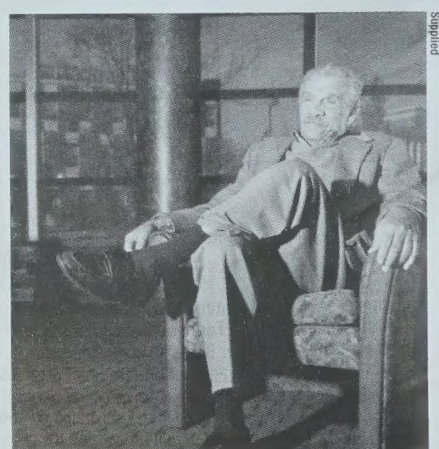
Walcott joined the U of A shortly after on a three-year contract that will end this fall. Smith and Almon have both attended Walcott's classes. Almon, who also teaches a course with him, says the poet has had a tremendous impact on students.

“I've been studying poetry all of my life and

I attended all of the classes he taught because I could learn so much from him,” Almon said. “He has an immense command of the language and literature. He's been an inspiration to the students and I think in a few years some of them will show how much they've profited from his influence by publishing their own works.”

Smith said Walcott does not like the charm of fame, which comes in handy in relating to his students. “When I watched him give feedback, he concentrated on each student,” Smith said. “That memory will carry on with students because he does not come across as a Nobel Laureate who's above them.”

“It's rare for undergraduate students to have that direct teaching access to someone like Derek, and that makes the U of A one of the few places where this rich experience would happen.” ■



Derek Walcott

## Winter slips and trips prevention

Folio Staff

No matter how carefully snow and ice are removed from University of Alberta property, you may encounter slippery surfaces during an Edmonton winter. Be aware of the danger and take appropriate precautions. The Office of Environmental Health and Safety offers these suggestions:

- Choose appropriate footwear that will provide traction on snow and ice.
- Plan ahead and think about the best route to your destination. Give yourself a little extra time to get there.
- Walk on designated walkways whenever possible. It can be hazardous to take shortcuts over snow piles or areas not cleared of snow.
- Don't carry heavy objects in slippery conditions.
- Beware of "black ice" and slippery conditions on surfaces that have been cleared. Water vapour can freeze on cold surfaces and form an extra-thin, nearly invisible layer of ice that can look like a wet spot on the pavement. Such conditions often appear early in the morning or in areas that are shaded from the sun.
- Before stepping off the curb, make sure any approaching vehicles have come to a complete stop.
- Take small steps.
- Never run on slippery surfaces. Walk slowly and keep both hands out to stay balanced.
- Use handrails while walking up and down stairs.
- When exiting or entering a vehicle, hold on to the vehicle for support.
- When entering a building, be sure to use floor mats and boot cleaners to remove moisture from the soles of your shoes. This will help protect you, as well as others who follow, from having to walk on wet or slippery surfaces.

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## Declining polar-bear litter sizes linked to loss of sea ice

Brian Murphy

University of Alberta researchers have linked the reproductive ecology

of polar bears in Hudson Bay with declining litter sizes and loss of sea ice.

"Projected reductions in the number of newborn cubs are a significant threat to the western Hudson Bay polar-bear population," said lead researcher Péter Molnár, from the U of A's Department of Biological Sciences. "If climate change continues unabated the viability of the species across much of the Arctic will be in question."

Molnár and U of A colleagues Andrew Derocher and Mark Lewis used data collected beginning in the 1990s to analyze how long, during the polar bear's hunting season, Hudson Bay is frozen over and the amount of energy pregnant females can store up before denning and birthing.

"An early spring-ice break up reduces the hunting season, making it difficult for pregnant females to even support themselves, let alone give birth to and raise cubs," said Derocher.

**"An early spring-ice break up reduces the hunting season, making it difficult for pregnant females to even support themselves, let alone give birth to and raise cubs."**

Andrew Derocher

Pregnant polar bears take to a maternity den for up to eight months and during this time no food is available and they survive on their fat stores. In the early 1990s, researchers estimate, 28 per cent of energy-deprived pregnant

polar bears in the Hudson Bay region failed to produce a litter. Researchers say energy-deprived pregnant females will either not enter a maternity den or they will naturally abort. Using mathematical modeling to estimate the energetic impacts of a shortened hunting season, the research team calculated the following scenarios: If spring break up in Hudson Bay comes one month earlier than in the 1990s, 40 to 73



Early spring break up in Hudson Bay is thought to depress polar-bear populations.

per cent of pregnant female polar bears will not reproduce. If the ice breaks up two months earlier than in the 1990s, 55 to a full 100 per cent of all pregnant female polar bears in western Hudson Bay will not have a cub.

The polar-bear population of western Hudson Bay is currently estimated to be around 900, which is down from 1,200 bears in the past

decade. The number of polar bears across the Arctic is estimated to be between 20,000 and 25,000.

"Because the Hudson Bay polar bears are the most southerly population, they are the first to be affected by the global-warming trend," said Molnár. "However, if temperatures across the Arctic continue to rise, much of the global population of polar bears will be at risk." ■

## Killam winner tests depth of still waters in classroom

Michael Brown

Brian Jones has a reservoir of research experience to offer his students.

The reservoir geologist in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences has been plying his trade at the University of Alberta for 34 years. Over that time, Jones has been named the C.R. Stelck Chair in Petroleum Geology, a member of the Royal Society of Canada and now a Killam Professor.

"The U of A has been a great place to work. We have all the research facilities that we need; it is hard to find anywhere else that has the same level and calibre of equipment and technical staff to help run the machines," said Jones. "The university has always provided me with an opportunity to do my research, and I enjoy working with the students."

Jones spends a lot of time focused on the precipitates (carbonates and silica) and microbes that are found around hot springs in such places as New Zealand, Iceland and China, specifically, looking at the minerals that

precipitate out of the boiling water and the role micro-organisms play in that precipitation.

He is also involved in researching oil and gas reservoirs in Western Canada's sedimentary basin and has done work in the Cayman Islands looking at the evolution of carbonate rock successions. His research there has helped the Cayman Islands water authority develop their water supply, which is done by converting ocean water into fresh water.

"In order to do that you have to get a supply of water, know what the geology is and how the water is going to flow through rocks to the plants," said Jones. "Essentially, I tell them where to get their water and what depth to obtain it from."

Because Jones' research laboratory is in the field, he says it is easy to bring real-world examples of research to the classroom, particularly his work in the Cayman Islands and exploration and exploitation of oil and gas in Western Canada.

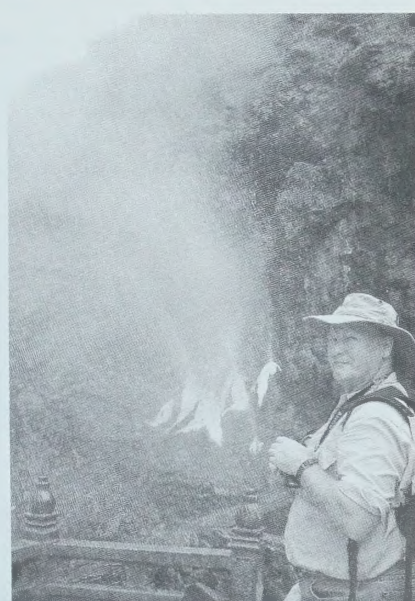
"Instead of talking about things in a very abstract sense, I try to bring in very

*teaching & learning, learning & teaching*

practical examples based on my own experience working in the field to show students what the application of the research is and why they need to deal with some of these issues," said Jones, who teaches a first-year introductory class, and senior undergraduate and graduate-level courses in carbonate sedimentology. Jones says he stresses the importance of very basic knowledge, but does try to get students to think for themselves and not just to learn by rote memorization.

"They have to do some of that, but I also want them to think and reason and develop things. I always try to show the practical application of what we're teaching. I try to get across the idea that we're not just teaching

for the sake of teaching, but be able to show them that their knowledge does have real applications." ■



Brian Jones in New Zealand.

## Are You a Winner?

Congratulations to Lily Choi, whose name was drawn as part of folio's Jan. 28 "Are You a Winner?" contest. Choi correctly identified the photo in question as the seal in Alumni Walk, located just north SUB's main entrance. For her efforts, Choi has won the much-sought-after Butterdome butter dish.

Do not despair, as another Butterdome butter dish will be up for grabs this week. To win, simply email your correct answer to folio@exr.ualberta.ca by noon on Friday, Feb. 18, and you will be entered into the draw.



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- 3) "In two months of treatment, Dr. He has helped alleviate pain from sciatica, disc bulges and inoperable spinal cysts." - Senior staff member at the U of A



Augustana Campus was home to the annual Round Dance that kicked off International Week Jan. 29.

## Role of modern-day provost a few hundred centuries in the making

*The University of Alberta can be a complicated entity with many moving parts. University 101 exists to assist the campus community in better understanding who does what and how things get done at the U of A.*

Michael Brown

The position of provost dates back to medieval times when the provost was, for all intents and purposes, the director of a religious community. While theological communing was left to the bishops, priests and nuns, the provost looked after the details of everyday life.

Fast forward a few centuries, and the position of provost at universities has evolved significantly.

As chief academic officer, the provost leads the team of vice-presidents to ensure that portfolios and goals are aligned toward achievement of the university's vision. Academic leadership and overall institutional planning

are the provost's responsibility.

"Until the 1970s, universities tended not to have provosts," says U of A Provost Carl Amrhein. "There was an academic vice-president, who, by virtue of the business, was responsible for the largest of the vice-presidential portfolios."

As Canadian university presidents became more and more externally focused on government and international relations as well as fundraising, this shift in the nature of the role of the president necessitated at the U of A an increased role for the vice-president (academic). In 1998 the title of provost was added to the position. In July 2001 the title was changed to provost and vice-president (academic), reflecting the new emphasis on the role in operational co-ordination.

"University business is the academics, so the provost was added to the vice-president academic," said Amrhein. "It made sense for the provost to be assigned to the vice-president (academic) portfolio because it maintains the alignment of the academic

missions core to the institution."

As the role evolved, it became clear that responsibilities needed to be shared. Amrhein says the U of A created a deputy provost position, who is essentially doing the work of the traditional vice-president (academic). "Dru Marshall, our deputy provost, takes care of working with the deans on budgets and appointments. She works with Facilities and Operations on space and works with the government on enrolment," he says.

Amrhein says the provost has several overarching responsibilities, the first of which is to maintain a direct set of relationships with the four constituencies laid out in the Post-Secondary Learning Act: the Students' Union, the Graduate Students' Association, the Non-Academic Staff Association and the Association of Academic Staff.

Secondly, the provost chairs the selection committees for deans and is the direct link with the deans and central university on all academic matters. To help ensure these relationships, the

provost's office has a deputy provost and vice-provosts.

"If you imagine the deans as defining a column in an academic matrix, then the rows are defined by the vice-provosts," said Amrhein.

When Amrhein became the provost in 2003, the lines were somewhat blurred between to whom the heads of the U of A's largest operations—such as the registrar's office and libraries—and the various associate vice-presidents reported.

"It was then agreed that the provost's office would appoint vice-provosts and the Office of the Vice-President (Research) would appoint its associate vice-presidents," says Amrhein. "It brought a nice balance to the whole discussion; the deans liked it because the change made it clear who they could go to for direct help."

Amrhein says the provost also has special responsibility for student issues. Strengthening the links to students, enhancing the well-being of students and ensuring that student issues have a high

### University 101

profile in planning and decision making are substantive parts of this role.

Another large area of focus is the provost's role with the committees of both the General Faculties Council and the board of governors. In the case of the GFC committees, someone in the Office of the Provost—either the provost, a vice-provost or deputy provost—chairs the committees. On board committees, the provost, on the instruction of the president, attends as one of the senior people in administration.

"The provost does some of what presidents have done in the past within the institution: chairs the executive planning committee and works with the other vice-presidents and with the ministries on the business affairs of the institution," said Amrhein. "This includes things like the budgets, building priorities, funding decisions, and whether to buy and sell, essentially the business of the university." ■

## Food for thought: What Canada must do to help fight looming food crisis

John Kennelly & Douglas Hedley

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's recent announcement that the world food price index now surpasses the peak level achieved in the food price spike in 2007–08 raises serious concerns about the ability of the world to feed itself over the next several years.

Demand for food is increasing because growing populations and incomes, particularly in Africa and east and south Asia. Meanwhile, staple food stocks are declining in relation to world demand, with small changes in food production causing greater variability in food prices.

Increased volatility in food prices seems inevitable, given the effects of climate change, more frequent devastating floods and droughts, and urbanization

and industrialization, which will reduce available arable land and remove water from food production.

In Canada, higher prices for farm products may seem to be a good thing for farmers, but it's important to remember that food production input costs such as energy are also rising regardless of whether farmers are into organic, local or intensive high-input agriculture. Few experts are forecasting sharply lower production costs.

Worldwide pressure on food availability and prices abroad will certainly give rise to strife among nations, particularly in Africa and Asia.

Canada has a unique opportunity to help solve this pending global crisis. Research to increase agricultural productivity is the single most important investment needed to

address this looming scenario.

Increased production of agricultural staples for both food and non-food uses will have to come from research into improvements in technology that will generate better yields and more nutritious foods.

Productivity increases must come from higher yields since using more land for agriculture would lead to significant destruction of forests and ecologically fragile areas. In turn, this would generate still more greenhouse gas effects, which drive climate change and reduce agricultural yields in many parts of the world.

Agricultural productivity growth has slowed over the past 20 years in the world and in Canada due to reduced public investments in agriculture and food research. Through our universities and other publicly funded research institutions, Canada can raise agricultural productivity levels to more sustainable levels.

Why should Canada, with a relatively small share of the world's population, invest more heavily in agriculture and food research? Greater research

funding not only offers the potential for better food productivity, safety and quality, but also strengthens Canada's ability to produce the next generation of scientists and expertise required by governments, the private sector and universities. Research in universities is the foundation for training highly qualified personnel increasingly needed in the post-industrial economy.

Canada is a major producer and exporter of agriculture and food products, including grains, canola, pork, beef and pulse crops, as well as semi-processed and processed foods. High-quality food exports are a critical part of Canada's agriculture and food system and agriculture is one of the few sectors with a positive trade balance.

We have a demonstrated capacity for developing new crops and increasing the nutritional value of food products. Examples include canola, edible flax, edible soybeans, peas, beans and lentils, and high-quality fruits and vegetables, along with high-quality grains.

Canada needs to be doing research to address current and potential threats to agriculture around the world. If

unresolved, these problems will lead to income losses for farmers and increased government costs for income stabilization. Research is a far less costly approach.

Joining forces with universities and scientists in other countries and international organizations is immensely important—not only to protect Canadian production, but also to gain important knowledge from working with scientists around the world.

Canada has the opportunity and the capacity to increase agricultural and food productivity, create highly qualified personnel for our future and improve the nutritional quality of Canadian foods. In the process, we will contribute to the stability of world food supplies and moderate the strife that inevitably stems from food insecurity and hunger.

A version of this opinion piece was published in the Edmonton Journal on Jan. 28. John Kennelly is the Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Science. Douglas Hedley is the executive director of the Canadian Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine. ■

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<p>Date/Location May 12, 2009 Steffery Executive Development Centre, University of Alberta, Edmonton</p>	<p>"Oil Sands Tailings and Water Use: Some Hopes and Fears" Julia Focht (Professor, Biological Sciences), Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering</p>
<p>September 3, 2009 Steffery Executive Development Centre, University of Alberta, Edmonton</p>	<p>"Blowing in the Wind: Pros and Cons of small grain fields (sorghum) as a bioenergy crop" Prof. Cast - click here</p>
<p>October 1, 2009 Steffery Executive Development Centre, University of Alberta, Edmonton</p>	<p>"Risk, Performance, and Uncertainty in the Oil Sector" Chalabert (Professor in Civil and Environmental Engineering)</p>
<p>November 12, 2009 Steffery Executive Development Centre</p>	<p>"Adaptation to Climate Change: A Role for the Energy Sector" Marianne Douglas (Professor in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences)</p>



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# Education students learning to speak the language of today's kids

Dawn Ford

Building video games can be an important teaching tool to engage students in exploring a given subject area.

Patricia Boechler, professor in educational psychology and co-ordinator of the Faculty of Education's master's of education technology in education specialization, believes educators can harness the growing trend of video gaming as a starting point for exploring new ways of reaching students. Boechler teaches EDIT 486, a course that teaches education students to use game construction as a teaching tool with their own students.

"Our elementary and secondary-level students are engaged at the onset. They walk into the classroom with

video games already being a huge part of their lives outside the classroom," says Boechler, who collaborated in designing the video games course with Mike Carbonaro, professor in educational psychology.

"In this course, we look at video games through the lens of educational theory and the idea of constructionism. We understand that students construct their own knowledge through their experiences with the environment, particularly as they build things to share with others," says Boechler, whose research over the past decade has centred on the study of cognition and learning in educational technology. "As educators, our job is to create learning opportunities that really engage students and, at the same time, guide knowledge construction.

"This isn't about taking commercial video games into the classroom so kids can play them more—this is about having them build their own games around a certain relevant topic such as the economic competition related to the control of the North American fur trade in social studies. When they create a video game, they must delve deeply into all aspects of that topic as they construct their game environment," she explains.

Shivon Brennan, a secondary-education student in Boechler's course, constructed a video game using Scratch, a popular programming language used to create interactive stories and animations. In Brennan's game, Little Red Riding Hood has to navigate through a maze while picking apples on her way to grandma's house.

"Creating the Scratch project was one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of my university career. It was extremely daunting to come into a project like this with no previous understanding of programming. The trial-and-error process opened my mind to exploring different ways that things work, an important characteristic to bring into the classroom when I am a teacher," says Brennan.

Chris Thompson, a student in the class, says the project challenged him to hone in on his planning and time-management skills and gave him an appreciation for the benefits of using the popular technologies his own students

engage in. "I realize now that there are many forms of educational media which I can use to inspire students to

put in an effort above and beyond anything they previously thought possible," he says.

Boechler says she is definitely not suggesting that everyone go out and buy video games to put into their classrooms. "Learning how to approach new technologies is important for pre-service

teachers, but rather than the technology itself as the subject, this course is about how we can use technology to explore new ways of enhancing learning through the same technologies kids are engaging with every day," says Boechler. ■



Patricia Boechler

## Faculty's Wall of Excellence a testament to arts teachers

Isha Thompson

A new tribute to the outstanding teaching within the Faculty of Arts is not only meant to showcase the talents of instructors, but also to act as an inspiration for others to aspire to become great teachers.

A teaching wall that celebrates the faculty members who have been recognized with formal teaching awards over the past 25 years was officially unveiled Feb. 2, showcasing the names of 273 people.

"I think we are blessed and honoured to have so many great teachers within the faculty," said Dean of Arts

Lesley Cormack to approximately 100 guests including many of the former and current teachers being recognized on the wall. "You have mentored our students past and present and I know you will stand as an inspiration to those who are teaching now and who will teach in the future."

The initial proposal for the teaching wall was conceived in 2006 by the Faculty of Arts Committee on Teaching and Learning. Their goal was to raise the level of recognition of the passion of arts teachers and of the faculty's commitment to providing an outstanding learning experience for students.

Karla Del Carpio received a teach-

ing award in 2009 for a Spanish course she has taught at the U of A for four years. She believes motivated teachers will undoubtedly result in motivated students. Del Carpio recalled that receiving her award was a thrill and she is delighted about the new teaching wall.

"Every morning when I walk by here I am going to be able to see my name; it's really motivating. I think it is such a good idea," she said with a proud smile. Lauren and Michael Sky were equally proud, although not for an award that either of them had won. Mother and son were celebrating the achievements of Bill Meloff, who received an award in 1994 for his work as a professor in the Department of

Sociology. Meloff died in 1997, but his daughter and grandson felt it was important to celebrate in his honour.

"It means a lot to me because I know teaching meant a lot to him," explained Lauren, who said her father was thrilled about his role in the Faculty of Arts and always had students rushing to register for his classes.

"It's really cool and special that [my] grandfather's name is on the wall and it means a lot that I have a family member that was so important here," added Michael.

The teaching wall will be updated yearly in order to consistently represent the last 25 years of award winners. ■



Dean of Arts Lesley Cormack at the teaching wall.

### 2011-2012 Killam Annual Professorships

Applications are invited for the 2011-2012 Killam Annual Professorships.

All regular, continuing, full-time academic faculty members who are not on leave during 2011-2012 are eligible to apply. Deans, Department Chairs and other senior University administrators with personnel responsibilities shall not normally be eligible for Killam Annual Professorships. Associate Deans and Associate Department Chairs are eligible providing they do not have personnel responsibilities. Up to eight Killam Annual Professors will be selected by a subcommittee of the Killam Trusts Committee; no more than two Professorships shall be awarded to staff members in any one faculty in any given year. Each Killam Annual Professor shall be presented with a \$3,500 prize and a commemorative plaque. The duties of Killam Annual Professors shall not be changed from those that they regularly perform as academic staff members.

The primary criterion for selection shall be a record of outstanding scholarship and teaching over three or more years as evidenced by any or all of research publications, creative activities, presented papers, supervision of graduate students, and courses taught. The secondary criterion shall be a record of substantial contributions to the community outside the University, above and beyond what is usually expected of a professor, as evidenced by community involvement normally directly linked to the applicant's University responsibilities and activities. However, other forms of community involvement will be considered, especially, but not exclusively, where the applicant's discipline does not readily lend itself to making community contributions, and also where the university's reputation is clearly enhanced by the applicant's contributions.

Awards are tenable for twelve months commencing July 1, 2011. The completed application must be received at the Office of the Vice-President (Research), 1-20 University Hall, by 4:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 18, 2011. The awardees shall be announced by early May, and they will be formally recognized at the Killam Luncheon in the fall of 2011.

Applications and further details are available on the home page of the Vice-President (Research) at <http://www.research.ualberta.ca>.

Please contact Annette Kujda, administrative officer, Office of the Vice-President (Research) at extension 2-8342 or email [annette.kujda@ualberta.ca](mailto:annette.kujda@ualberta.ca) if you have any questions.

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Brian Murphy

The University of Alberta has formally joined a space race of sorts. It's not a race to another planet; it's a race to get students onboard with careers in space science and technology. A delegation from the U of A just returned from Norway with a formal agreement to launch a rocketry program with the University of Oslo called the Canada-Norway Sounding Rocket Program, or CaNoRock.

Over the last year and a half, three groups of U of A students have made the trip to the Andøya Rocket Range in Norway, where the students built and then flew science experiments on super-sonic rockets. Dave Miles, a U of A graduate student in physics, has been to Andøya twice and says that it's an unbelievable experience for people with their eye on space. "Now we have a fully funded three-year program that will see 60 Canadian students build scientific instruments and design missions for sounding rocket launches," he said.

Sounding rockets are commonly used for atmospheric monitoring, space science and as a proving ground for satellite instruments that are set to fly in space. "These rockets are re-purposed military missiles, about two metres in height, and can reach an altitude of nine to 10 kilometres," said Miles.

Norway and Canada are a good fit for a joint rocket training program, says Miles. "We are geographically similar; we've both got interest in the Arctic, and we both need engineers who can design and build homegrown space-satellite programs." The Andøya Rocket

Range is on the coast of Norway overlooking the North Sea.

Organizers of the program say sounding rockets provide entry-level access to the high-risk, high-cost world of space satellite missions. "The undergraduate students can send a sounding rocket up for between \$20,000 and \$30,000 dollars," said Miles. "but you have to prove yourself at that level before a space agency will let you anywhere near a satellite mission that costs tens or hundreds of millions of dollars."

"Canada has the fourth-largest aerospace industry in the world," says U of A professor Ian Mann and Canada Research Chair in space physics. Mann helped create the program and its focus. "CaNoRock aims to attract Canada's best into careers that maintain and expand Canada's place in space."

Besides the U of A, the universities of Calgary and Saskatchewan will put students through the week in Andøya. Funders for the program include the U of A's Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund, which contributed \$120,000 over three years, and the Canadian Space Agency, which will contribute \$300,000 over three years.

U of A's part in the CaNoRock program was developed by the university's Institute for Space Science Exploration. Miles says ISSET has one foot in engineering and the other in science, and both interests are represented in a new learning venture for U of A undergraduates. "We're putting the curriculum together for an introductory space-science and instrumentation course that we hope to offer next year," he said. ■



The Andøya Rocket Range in Norway.

# Last bear out turns off the lights—era of the Main Gym comes to an end

Michael Brown

For 50 years, the University of Alberta volleyball and basketball teams have lived Dorothy's assertion that there's no place like home.

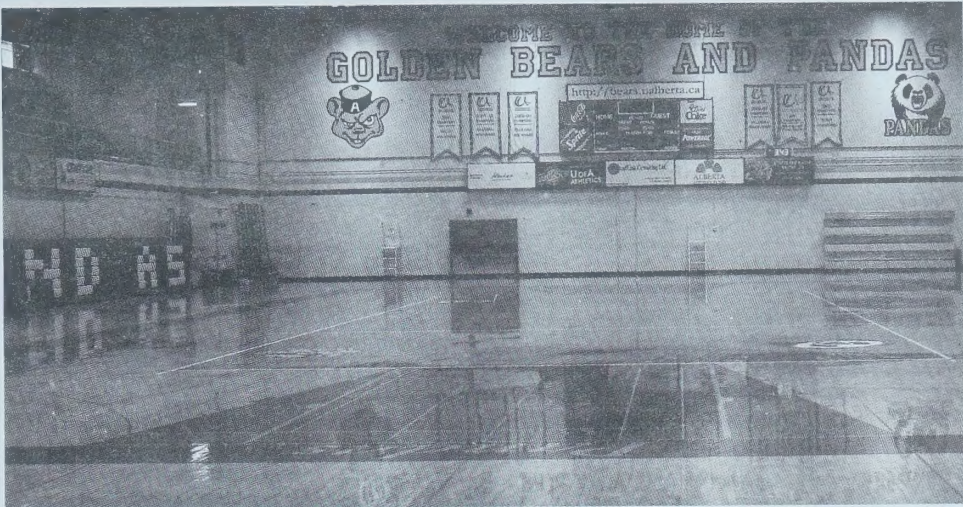
Over that span, the Golden Bears and Pandas court teams have pieced together a remarkable six of the school's 17 national championships on U of A soil, to go with countless Canada West titles and regular season victories under the bright lights of the unremarkably named Main Gym.

With the GO Centre's court on the U of A's South Campus planned for play readiness next year, this weekend marks the final chapter of the Main Gym's legacy of excellence.

"I am going to miss it," said Golden Bears men's volleyball coach Terry Danyluk, whose teams celebrated national championships on the main gym floor in 2002 and 2009. "As an athlete, whether it was playing as a young teenager, playing for the U of A, or at the master's games, and then with coaching and teaching now, for me, the Main Gym has been the cornerstone for a lot of things in the city.

"From community events to international events in many sports, it has produced a lot of great moments and a lot of great memories."

Originally built in 1958, the doors to the Main Gym opened to varsity competition in 1960 and have seen a number of historical events happen on its hardwood floor since then, including the 1968 Canadian Amateur Wrestling Association Canadian championships and Olympic trials, the 1978 Commonwealth Games and 13 CIS national championships.



This season marks the end of the line for the university's historic Main Gym. Beginning with the 2011-12 basketball and volleyball season, the GO Centre will be home for the Golden Bears and Pandas.

It is likely that the first major sport competition to be held in the Main Gymnasium was a basketball game played between the Golden Bears basketball team and the Harlem Stars, on Nov. 10, 1960. The Main Gym also hosted the memorial services for Maury Van Vliet Sr. in 2001, after whom the entire physical education and recreation building is named.

For Danyluk, the Main Gym is where he rose to prominence, first as a player guiding the Golden Bears to a national title in 1981, and then as a coach for 30 years, winning five more national titles. Despite his teams' national glory, his favourite memory has a little more international flavour.

"A lot of times the last match at the Can-Am challenge has come against an NCAA team in front of a full house. The first time we had a packed crowd was in 1998 at the Can-Am Challenge

when we played Stanford. Both teams were defending national champions and the game went five sets," he said. "More recently, maybe the biggest crowd ever was when we won in 2009, and they brought an extra 1,000 seats in.

"It was Laval and Alberta, two undefeated teams going down to the wire. There was really nothing like winning that championship at home in front of 3,000 people, perhaps the biggest crowd ever."

No team in the country has relished home court more than the Pandas volleyball team, which claimed four of its six consecutive CIS championship titles at the Main Gym in the late 1990s when the team ruled over Canadian university volleyball landscape with an iron fist.

"It is a pretty unique playing environment," said Laurie Eisler, the Pandas head coach for 19 years. "Originally it

was a very large gym, so I think teams found it hard because of the space. It is also known as the intimate gym because the crowd is so close to the court, creating an atmosphere that makes for an awesome place to play volleyball. If you have a relatively large crowd, you can feel the energy of the crowd, and when you think of the championship matches where it has been sold out, it felt like the place was vibrating.

"Volleyball players in Canada don't usually get to play in that context; we're not Turkey and we're not Japan, where it is such a huge spectator sport. We don't have professional leagues, so for our athletes to have an experience that feels like Rexall Place during a playoff run was pretty amazing."

Even beyond the successes, Eisler says the Main Gym's biggest legacy is its sense of community.

"It is real community gathering

## Main Gym vitals

- After 40 years of continuous use by the Golden Bears and Pandas, as well as intramural and recreational use and physical education and recreation classes, the Main Gym flooring was replaced in 1998.
- The Main Gym measures 108 feet by 168 feet and has a seating capacity of 2,714.
- 13 Canadian university sport national championships have been held in the Main Gym since it opened in 1958.
- Six of those 13 championships were won by Alberta.
- List of championships held in the Main Gym (Alberta wins denoted by \*):

2010-women's volleyball  
2009-men's volleyball\*  
2003-men's volleyball  
2002-men's volleyball\*  
2001-women's basketball  
2000-women's basketball  
1999-women's volleyball\*  
1998-women's volleyball\*  
1997-women's volleyball\*  
1995-women's volleyball\*  
1993-men's volleyball  
1974-men's volleyball  
1967-men's volleyball (first national championship hosted in Main Gym)

place for volleyball, so when we host a weekend of conference play, it really is the home of Edmonton's volleyball community," she said. "Some of our teams grew up in that gym, and many of their parents played in that gym, and so it has a history that a lot of people can relate to."

The two task forces described below have been formed by the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and the Vice-President (Finance and Administration), respectively. Both task forces are requesting feedback from the community. The two task forces will work together to ensure topics are covered by the appropriate group.

### Academic Policy and Process Review (APPR) Task Force

Sponsor: Carl G. Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

The mandate of the APPR Task Force is to facilitate students' learning by ensuring that the University's policies and processes for academic programs do not present unnecessary barriers to student engagement and do not prevent students from having positive and rewarding experiences at the University of Alberta.

The APPR Task Force is chaired by the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and includes members from across the University community.

The task force is in the process of gathering a list of potential topics for discussion and would like to hear from members of the University community about academic rules, regulations, policies and processes that are perceived to be in need of review.

Please forward your comments and suggestions to [appr@uhal.ualberta.ca](mailto:appr@uhal.ualberta.ca)

More information on the APPR task force, including the full membership, can be found at <http://www.provost.ualberta.ca/en/CommitteesandTaskForces/APPR.aspx>

### Administrative Innovation and Process Review (AIPR) Task Force

Sponsor: Phyllis Clark, Vice-President (Finance & Administration)

The mandate of the AIPR Task Force is to conduct reviews of University-wide administrative processes and individual administrative units or processes in order to seek innovative improvements and streamline cumbersome processes.

The AIPR Task Force is co-chaired by Mary Persson, Associate Vice-President (Audit and Analysis) and Sheree Kwong See, Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning), Faculty of Arts and includes members of the University community.

The task force seeks input from members of the University community to gather new innovative ideas and to help identify administrative processes that are overly cumbersome or inefficient. The TF will focus on areas that will a) optimize the operational efficiency of a unit or process, b) enhance customer service, c) present new opportunities for cost containment, and/or d) create opportunities for revenue enhancement.

Please forward your comments and suggestions to [admin.ideas@ualberta.ca](mailto:admin.ideas@ualberta.ca)

More information on the AIPR task force, including the full membership, can be found at: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/vpfinance/taskforce.cfm>

The input of the community is important to the work of both task forces. All comments will be shared with the task force, but comments will be handled confidentially at the request of the submitter. Thank you for your assistance. We would benefit from receiving your comments by March 31, 2011.

# news [shorts]

folio presents a sample of some of the research stories that recently appeared on ExpressNews, the U of A's online news source, and other campus news sources. To read more, go to [www.expressnews.ualberta.ca](http://www.expressnews.ualberta.ca).

## Federal Science, Technology and Science Council taps president for input

President Indira Samarasekera has been appointed to the Science, Technology and Innovation Council, the government's advisory body on science, technology and innovation issues, the federal government announced Feb. 2.

Along with six other appointees, Samarasekera was selected to make recommendations to the government on many sectors of the Canadian economy. Since convening in November 2007, the council has provided science and technology advice to the government on a dozen major topics, said the council's chair Howard Alper. "Our advice has been considered relevant, timely and valuable in shaping the priority science and technology policies and programs of the government," he said.

"These talented Canadians come from the public, private and academic sectors. They have the broad range of experience that is essential to advise the government on science and technology matters of national importance," said Tony Clement, minister of industry. "I am pleased they have agreed to serve on the council and am certain their contributions will advance the government's innovation agenda."

## Student fundraiser contributes \$25,000 to dentistry

Dentistry and dental hygiene students who hosted the first Dentistry Student's Association Ball Jan. 22 have set the bar at an impressive level, raising \$25,500 for a Canadian-based volunteer organization Dentistry for All.

The Dentistry Student's Association put on the ball to leave a legacy behind when they move on from their posts with the association. Money was raised through sponsorship and ticket sales for the event which included a dinner, dance and fashion show.

"We were simply blown away by the amount of support for the event and the organization," said Dave Leoni, a second-year dental student who is on the organizing committee. "Not only did we sell out the seats (about 230 people), but also we raised five times the amount of money that we had originally projected as deeming the event a 'success.'"

The group had originally hoped to raise around \$5,000.

Dentistry for All was started by a dentist out of Calgary. The organization provides free dental care to patients, who do not have access to dentists in impoverished countries like Nicaragua, Guatemala and the Philippines.

"Dentistry for all provides them with dental treatment and dental education," said Leoni. "Otherwise these patients are pulling their own teeth."

The hope is that this charity ball will become an annual event.

## Arts research goes public

Graduate students are all too familiar with the countless hours that are spent on research. However, only a select few at the U of A have experienced the challenge of creating a streamlined presentation that showcases their work to the public in under seven minutes.

The participants of the "Let's Talk: How to Make Research Go Public," competition held this month signed up for this challenge, and at the end of the night three arts graduate students walked away with cash prizes to help carry out their research goals.

A total of 11 projects were presented in a PechaKucha format, which requires students to explain their research with a background of 20 PowerPoint slides shown for 20 seconds each. The presentation style is a way to force presenters to compile information in a concise manner with a strict timeframe of six minutes and forty seconds.

With this being the first year of the event and a new concept for the Faculty of Arts, organizers were not entirely sure of what to expect. However, the night quickly proved to be a big success.

"I was blown away. I know that our graduate students are good—I didn't know they were this good," said Heather Zwicker, the Faculty of Arts' associate dean of graduate studies, who was one of the lead organizers of the event.

"I feel like I just came away from a three-day conference where you might hear 11 papers, except I did it all in two hours."

## Archaeological textiles take researcher to Egypt

When an international team of archaeologists needed a textile scientist to help them identify tiny 2,000 year-old textile pieces at a Roman site in Egypt, they called Jane Batcheller.

Batcheller, a faculty service officer in the Department of Human Ecology, spent three weeks last December at the archaeological site of Karanis, in the Fayum, an agricultural oasis at the edge of the western desert.

Most of the artifacts found were coarse, plainly woven wool or linen pieces, with goat hair being used occasionally. One of the most interesting pieces was a scrap of fabric that had probably been worn as a sock almost 2,000 years ago. Other pieces had the markings of "clavi" bands, which were commonly found as decoration on Roman tunics. The archaeologists also found some knotted netting, which may have been used as a mesh bag for carrying food.

# Cyclist puts PhD on hold for gold

**T**ara Whitten, '07 BSc, winner of a gold and three bronze medals at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in India, takes a break from training for the 2011 Track Cycling World Cup to talk with third-year student and fellow athlete Paula Findlay.

**Q:** You've had lots of successes in cycling, but this is actually a relatively new sport to you. When did you start competing seriously?

**A:** I first got on a track bike in 2005, but I was still cross-country skiing competitively, so it wasn't until July of 2007 that I started doing it seriously.

**Q:** What made you switch?

**A:** I had some success in skiing, but I wasn't consistently successful on the international team, and I felt like I was still a ways from that point. So I started cycling just for fun, and everything moved really quickly.

**Q:** What do you like so much about cycling?

**A:** It has a bit of everything. You need a lot of speed and power and endurance, but you also need to be smart and have tactical sense. And things happen quickly so you have to have fast reactions. It's exciting.

**Q:** Did you participate in a lot of different sports growing up?

**A:** I was very active when I was young. My family is also very active. My dad actually competed in mountain biking when I was growing up, and we followed him to races around the province. We did a lot of mountain biking as a family, we went on canoe trips and ski trips, but cross-country skiing was the first

thing that I did competitively.

**Q:** Was there any way in which your education contributed to your sporting career?

**A:** Oh, I think so. Because I was doing both school and sport I learned how to be very efficient, which I think has helped me as an athlete and in everything that I do.



Tara Whitten

And, on top of that, being a scientist influences the way I think about training. I'm very analytical about my training. I always want to understand why I'm doing something, and I think that's really helped me to define my training and to be very methodical about how I approach it.

**Q:** You're currently in the middle of a PhD at the U of A. What are

you studying?

**A:** I'm studying neuroscience in an electrophysiology lab in the psychology department with Clayton Dickson. I'm looking at rhythmic electrical activity in a particular area of the brain—the hippocampus—during sleep-like states. But I'm putting it on hold for two years as I prepare for the London Olympics.

**Q:** You're primarily a track cyclist, but you recently won a gold medal in the road time trial at the Commonwealth Games. Is there a big difference between racing on the track and on the road? Which do you prefer?

**A:** I prefer the track, but I really enjoy the time trial on the road as well because it's actually really similar to the kind of racing I was used to as a skier. The time trial for women usually lasts 30–45 minutes, which is right in the range of the typical event in cross-country skiing. And it's just you and your bike on the road, which is something I like. But because road racing and track racing are different seasons, I am able to do both.

**Q:** What are your plans for after London 2012?

**A:** I have about two years left in my PhD, so I'd really like to go back and finish it.

**Q:** Would you try to compete in Rio in 2016? Or maybe you'd like to try a different sport?

**A:** At a certain point there are other things I want to do in my life, but at the same time I love competing and training, so it's hard to say.

Read the full interview in *New Trail*, available online at [www.newtrail.ualberta.ca/en.aspx](http://www.newtrail.ualberta.ca/en.aspx).

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**BEAUTIFULLY UPGRADED EXECUTIVE CONDO.** Gorgeous executive 2-bedroom, 2 bath, 1,200 sq. ft. Townhouse for rent. Executive living steps to Whyte Avenue, river valley and university. Complete upgrades in all rooms. Utilities included. Heated underground parkade. Electrical, cable, phone and Internet not included in price. Great price of \$1,800/month on yearly lease. Call Michael Jenner today at 780-441-6441. Gordon W.R. King & Assoc. Real Estate Corp.

**MAIN FLOOR, 3 BEDROOM BUNGALOW.** Sunny front patio, 6 blocks to Southgate and LRT. Near U of A south campus, Sunterra, Italian center, walking trails. \$1,200/month plus utilities. Phone 780-438-0973

**U OF A GEM!** Beautiful Saskatchewan Drive river view. 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom condo for rent. 1,800 sq. ft., light filled corner unit on 2 levels, large windows, in-suite laundry, heated underground parking. Walking distance to U of A, LRT, Whyte Avenue. Available March 1. \$1,900/month. Call Carole 587-785-2980.

## ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SALE

**THE GALLERIA, \$440,000.** Unique architecture. Sunny atrium. 2 bdrms, 2 parking stalls, storage, designer upgrades. Call Michael Jenner at 780-441-6441. Gordon W.R. King & Assoc. Real Estate Corp.

**RETIRE TO PARADISE.** I did. Beautiful Mediterranean home on Gabriola, the Mediterranean Gulf island. [dshogan@shaw.ca](mailto:dshogan@shaw.ca)

**BUYING, SELLING OR LEASING A CONDO.** I can help you. Call now Connie Kennedy 780-482-6766. Pioneer Condominium Specialist. Re/Max Real Estate. Virtual Tours. [www.conniekennedy.com](http://www.conniekennedy.com).

## SERVICES

**CLEANING LADY.** Available to clean homes. Bi-weekly or monthly. References available. Call 780-634-8912.

**CASH PAID FOR QUALITY BOOKS.** The Edmonton Book Store, 780-433-1781. [www.edmontonbookstore.com](http://www.edmontonbookstore.com).

**DAVE RICHARDS CERTIFIED JOURNEYMAN CARPENTER.** Complete renovation services. 30 years experience. References. No job too small. 780-886-6005.

## Post-secondary institutions join forces to prepare for disasters

Jamie Hanlon

A new agreement between the University of Alberta and three local post-secondary institutions establishes a contingency plan to help maintain business continuity in the event disaster strikes one of the partner institutions. The agreement, signed by the U of A, Grant MacEwan University, the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and NorQuest College, means that the institutions could call upon one another in the event of an emergency such as

fire, severe weather or flooding. With the safety of the affected individuals the top priority, the agreement also calls for lending or sharing facilities, resources, equipment or computer systems and software, and even making staff available to assist if needed. Specific types of assistance could include making space available in the event of an evacuation, assistance with cleanup following structural damage, or help with the provision of psychological services to individuals who have experienced trauma.

Philip Stack, the U of A's associate

vice-president for Risk Management Services, said the agreement is an example of how the institutions are working together to make maximum use of their resources.

"The Alberta government and universities agree that everyone benefits when we are able to share resources, knowledge and best practices," he said. "This agreement forms an important part of our contingency planning that helps ensure we can continue to provide services during a major emergency and return to normal as quickly as possible."

The agreement establishes the legal and logistical details that would have to be resolved prior to assistance being rendered, ensuring a timely response from the partners in the event of an incident. The signatory parties noted that this Campus Alberta collaboration is another example of the strong relationships that exist between the institutions.

The four partners are making the terms of the agreement available to all Alberta institutions that may wish to pursue a similar arrangement in their geographical area. ■

# talks & events

Talks & Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in folio and on ExpressNews at: [www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm](http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm). A more comprehensive list of events is available online at [www.events.ualberta.ca](http://www.events.ualberta.ca). Deadline: noon one week prior to publication. Entries will be edited for style and length.

### Until Feb. 14

**The John H. Meier, Jr. Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction Collection.** This collection represents many great Canadian authors and the works present a variety of immigration themes. Noon–4:30 p.m. Bruce Peel Special Collections Library.

### Until Feb. 14

**Valentine's Day Contest.** Entry forms are available weekdays 9 a.m.–3 p.m. in the HUB Mall Administration Office, room 209, HUB Mall. Plenty of prizes.

### Until Feb. 19

**Transcendence: Four Artists, Four Cultures.** Featuring the work of internationally-renowned print artists from Poland, Japan, Canada and Belgium. Noon–5 p.m. Gallery A TELUS Centre.

**[a]drift : Edith Krause.** This exhibition is the final visual presentation for the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Printmaking. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Fine Arts Building Gallery.

**The Alcuin Society Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada.** The Alcuin Society offers prestigious awards for excellence in Canadian book design and sponsors the only national competition that recognizes and celebrates fine book design in Canada. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Fine Arts Building Gallery.

### Until Feb. 28

**Are You Here? Finding Home On A Map of the World.** Reflecting on themes of leaving, arriving, changing and losing, the English Undergraduate Student Association presents a written-word exhibit that asks,

"What does it mean to leave home? Can you find it again?" Galleria Rutherford Library.

### Feb. 11

**Golden Bears and Panda's Basketball vs University of Calgary Dinos.** 6 p.m. Main Gym. For a full schedule of U of A Athletics, go to [www.bears.ualberta.ca](http://www.bears.ualberta.ca).

**MACH 6 Early Music.** Jolaine Kerley and friends, 8 p.m., Arts and Convocation Hall.

### Feb. 12

**U of A Annual Johann Strauss Ball.** A formal viennese ball in support of music scholarships for study in Austria. 5:30 p.m., Aberhart Centre.

### Feb. 13

**Augustana Human Library.** Have you ever wondered what it would be like to go through the loss of a limb in war? Be a female firefighter? Can you imagine life as a transgendered person? These are just a few of the topics that will be available in the upcoming Augustana Human Library: centenary edition. 2–10 p.m. Augustana Library Augustana Library. [www.library.ualberta.ca/augustana/infolit/humanlibrary/](http://www.library.ualberta.ca/augustana/infolit/humanlibrary/)

### Feb. 14 to 18

**One World: Humanity Exposed.** Photographs from around the world depicting human rights abuses. Galleria Rutherford Library, North and South (Humanities and Social Sciences).

### Feb. 14

**Valentine's Goodie Give Away.**

**Valentine's Day Goodie Give Away** free cookies and punch. Stop by the Mural and Rutherford Lounge ramp in HUB. 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

**Family Biz & Beyond – The Future of Family Firms & Alberta's NxGen.** Are you 18–30? A business student? A nxGen business owner? An employee in family business? Aspiring to become a trusted advisor? Then you are invited to join Dean Mike Percy, and faculty representatives as they give you the inside scoop on how you can gain the skills to put you ahead of the crowd working in, or with, a family business. 5–7 p.m. MBA Lounge, room 4-06 Alberta School of Business.

### Feb. 17

**NSERC Partnerships Programs Information Sessions.** NSERC representatives will be on hand to talk about their Partnerships Programs, including Interaction, Engage, Strategic Project Grants, and Collaborative Research & Development. 9–10:30 a.m. E6-060 Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex. This will be followed by one-on-one sessions from 1–4 p.m. Please register at <http://rsoregistration.ualberta.ca/CourseDescription.do?courseid=4902>.

**Group-sourcing Ukrainian Folklore: Involving the Community in Research.** Natalie Kononenko has been doing fieldwork in the villages of Ukraine since 1998 and she is one of the few North American scholars to collect songs, stories and other data in rural areas. 3 p.m., 2-06 Pembina

Hall.

**Educated Palate–CocoJava.** The U of A Alumni Association is excited to present several educational opportunities featuring local food and drink. Transcend Coffee and Kerstin's Chocolates will be guiding our taste buds through the nuances and varieties of the cocoa and coffee bean. 6:30 p.m. Enterprise Square, 10230 Jasper Avenue. \$25 per person. [www.ualberta.ca/alumni/educatedpalate](http://www.ualberta.ca/alumni/educatedpalate).

### Feb. 19

**PSA presents: An Evening Showcase of Cultural Diversity.** The Pakistani Student's Association is proud to be hosting "An Evening Showcase of Cultural Diversity." This will be an evening full of music, dancing and other culturally enriched performances to share and celebrate the many different cultures at the U of A. 6–11 p.m. Dinwoodie Lounge, Students' Union Building.

### Feb. 21

**2011 Chinese New Year Family Day Celebration.** Come celebrate the Year of Rabbit with a Lion dance and firecrackers. Noon–4 p.m. Enterprise Square.

### Feb. 23

**Child Study Centre – Information Evening.** You are invited to attend a registration information presentation for the Child Study Centre. The CSC is a laboratory school offering junior kindergarten through

to Grade 6. Applications will be accepted at the end of the presentation. If you wish to submit an application form this evening, a copy of your child's birth certificate is required. Also, for the Jr. Kindergarten program, a \$50 non-refundable application fee is required. 7–8 p.m.

### Feb. 25

**Let's Talk NanoScience.** An information workshop for high school level students. Get to meet actual researchers involved in Nanotechnology and get a tour of the Nanotechnology Fabrication laboratory as well as enjoy a day on campus engaged in discussion over the impact of Nanoscience on society. 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Tory Lecture Theatres.

**The Department of Cell Biology Guest Speaker.** Christopher S. Sullivan, professor in the Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, University of Texas at Austin, will be on hand to give a talk entitled, RNAi machinery: a tool for the enemy during viral infection in mammalian cells? 9:30–10:30 a.m. 628 Medical Sciences.

**GFC University Teaching Awards Committee Deadlines.** Awards include Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, William Hardy Alexander Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, Provost's Award for Early Achievement of Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, and Teaching Unit Award 4:30 p.m. 819 Administration.

## laurels

**Shirley McClellan**, former deputy premier and Distinguished Scholar in Residence for the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences and the U of A's School of Business, has been appointed chancellor of the University of Lethbridge. Her political experience as former MLA for Drumheller-Stettler and her rural roots will be well served the university's next chancellor, says that school's president.

**Donna Goodwin**, associate professor in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, has been declared a Fellow of the International Federation of Adapted Physical Activity. This appointment is the highest professional and scientific recognition available for adapted physical activity researchers, recognizing outstanding accomplishments in scholarship and service by IFAPA members.

**Roy Suddaby** has been appointed the editor of the "Academy of Management Review," the world's premier journal in management. The journal has the highest citation impact rating among all of the research journals in the "Financial Times" list of elite journals.

**Florence Glanfield**, associate professor and associate chair, secondary education; Dwayne Donald, assistant professor, secondary education; and Gladys Sterenberg, assistant professor, Elementary Education, have won the ATA Educational Research Award for 2009–2010.

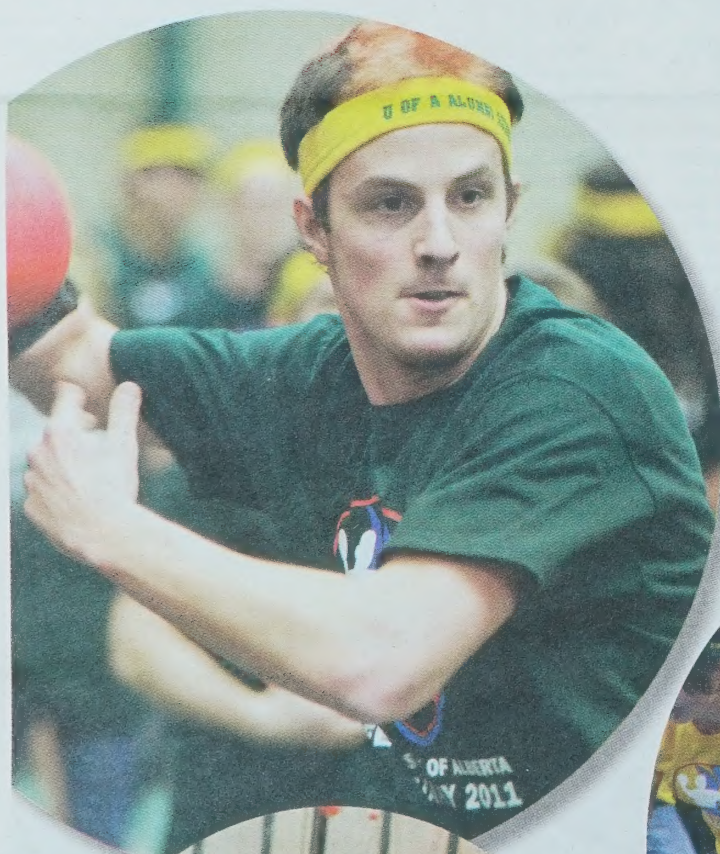
## Dickens comes to Studio Theatre



(From L-R) Jamie Cavanagh, Nicola Elbro, Matt Brault, Neil Kuefler and Tiffany Ayalik act out a scene from Studio Theatre's production of the Charles Dickens classic "The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby," which will be playing from Feb. 10 to 19 at the Timms Centre for the Arts (87 Ave. and 112 St.).



# It's not dodge ball if it's not **U of A** dodge ball



**T**he University of Alberta has reclaimed its title as home of the world's largest dodge ball game.

In front of official witnesses and a representative from Guinness World Records, 2,012 U of A staff, students and alumni piled into the Butterdome Feb. 4, breaking the current record. The U of A originally set the record with 1,198 players, which was subsequently broken seven months later by 1,745 players at University of California, Irvine.



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